

**HCV CORE PROTEIN BINDING AGENTS FOR
TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION**

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The present invention provides a method of treating or
preventing hepatitis C virus infection in a subject which
comprises administering an effective amount of an agent to
the subject, wherein the agent is capable of specifically
10 binding to the HCV core protein so as to inhibit hepatitis
C virus replication. The present invention also provides
a method for determining whether a compound can treat or
prevent hepatitis C virus infection in a subject, wherein
the compound treats or prevents hepatitis C virus infection
15 by specifically inhibiting the binding of HCV core protein
and said agent so as to suppress hepatitis C virus
replication. The present invention further provides a
composition for inhibiting cell growth, comprises a HCV
core protein or a variant thereof, wherein said HCV core
20 protein or its variant inhibit cancer cell growth by
inhibiting the cellular DEAD box proteins.

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